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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 10/694,776 | 10/29/2003 | Toshiro Hiraoka | 244631US0SRD | 6713 |
| 22850 | 7590 | 10/31/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | | | LAM, CATHY FONG FONG | |
| | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | 1775 | | |

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/694,776 | HIRAOKA ET AL. |
| | Examiner Cathy Lam | Art Unit 1775 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 29 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12-12-2003.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

In view of the response to the Restriction Requirement filed on September 30, 2005, applicant has elected group I (claims 1-11) with traverse to be examined for the time being.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: on line 2 applicant is suggested to add – the— before “apertures”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 11 is structurally indefinite, as it is unclear what “an exposed portion” is referring to? Clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatakeyama et al (US 4784901) or Suzuki (US 4640866).

Hatakeyama discloses a base material for use in printed circuit boards.

The base material is comprised of an expanded porous PTFE base sheet and a resin material. The base material is laminated to a glass cloth or a glass cloth may be laminated between two sheets of the base material (col 1 L 59-65).

The expanded porous PTFE base sheet is impregnated with the resin material. The porous base sheet has pores of an average diameter of 0.4 μm and a void ratio of 75% is impregnated with the resin of 40% by volume (col 4 L 8-14). An electroconductive layer can be formed over the base material (col 3 L 67-68).

Suzuki teaches a printed circuit board comprised of at least one metal bonded in laminar contact with an insulating layer.

The insulating layer is comprised of at least one layer of solid sintered PTFE (18). The solid sintered PTFE layer is bonded to the metal layer on one side and is bonded to a layer of porous expanded intered PTFE (19) on the other side (col 2 L 6-15, Fig. 4).

A plating catalyst is coated over the surface of the solid PTFE layer (18) for subsequence metal plating (col 3 L 53- col 4 L 2).

Both Hatakeyama and Suzuki teach a base layer used for printed wiring boards. The base layer is made up of two layers. One has a higher pore volume than the other, and a conductive foil is bonded to the porous layer that is impregnated with a resin (or a layer has lower pore volume).

The prior art are silent about the interface condition between the conductive foil and the impregnated porous layer.

In view of the prior art teaching, it would have been obvious that the conductive material (assuming it is in paste form) would penetrate into the surface of the porous layer because it is a natural phenomenon that a flowable or paste material would seep (or flow) into the pores or the porous surface.

It would also be obvious to one skill in the art to choose the material for the porous layer because it is a matter of design choice.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 5-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cathy Lam whose telephone number is (571) 272-1538.

The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Jones can be reached on (571) 272-1535. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1775

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Cathy Lam
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1775

cfl

October 25, 2005